

**Chief Executives' Group – North Yorkshire and York****5 September 2012****Safeguarding and protecting adults at risk of significant harm.****1 Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To update members on progress being made to safeguard and protect adults at risk of significant harm.

**2 Background**

- 2.1 Under the 'No Secrets' guidance (2000), NYCC has the lead responsibility to co-ordinate a multi-agency response to safeguarding. This is achieved through the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board (NYSAB) which was established in November 2008 following the disaggregation from the joint Board with City of York Council. Membership of the Board includes North Yorkshire County Council, District Councils, PCT, NHS Trusts, police, probation, independent and voluntary sector. The Board is supported by four Local Safeguarding Adults Groups and sub groups for training/practice development. Co-ordinating groups for Health Providers and District Councils are in place, in addition to a Mental Capacity Act/DoLS Forum.
- 2.2 Nationally, safeguarding adults remains a high priority with government guidance published in 2010<sup>1</sup> and the draft Care and Support Bill published this summer (July 2012)<sup>2</sup>. The Board will respond to this guidance as different elements come on stream and ensure that the multi-agency policy and procedure is fit for purpose.
- 2.3 The Local Area Agreement (2007-10) target for safeguarding adults was successfully met resulting in an increased level of reporting of safeguarding due to targeted training, better awareness and support to the voluntary sector. This has led to performance reward grants to deliver training on the Mental Capacity Act, provide additional administrative capacity in safeguarding and improve communication further.
- 2.4 We are awaiting the outcome of a serious case review into the death of a homeless man which will have implications for agencies across North Yorkshire. This will be published later this year

**3 Progress during 2011/12**

- 3.1 The NYSAB Annual Report 2011/12 is due to be published in September 2012 and includes the following highlights.
- Commitment from partners on the Board is good, evidenced in the statement of assurances in the Annual Report 2010/11 (see links at foot of report) including assurances on recruitment, training, procedures and commissioning. An Independent chair, Jonathan Phillips, appointed to the Safeguarding Adults Board in April 2012 intends to increase the level of challenge and scrutiny to the Board.
  - Reported safeguarding remains at a high level; increasing by 11% on the 2010/11 with the proportion from health, police, housing and CQC partners remaining high (32%). For a third of these (32%) there is further action under safeguarding procedures which brings North Yorkshire more in line with national trends.
  - Training remains a high priority with training plans in place for all the statutory partners and 70% of the statutory agencies delivering training targets in line with three year action plans, with the remaining third having a plan to deliver the target. Positive work on training for volunteers has been promoted across the whole partnership. A programme of awareness training about the Mental Capacity Act has been promoted alongside safeguarding training.

- Initial evidence (from questionnaires issued to vulnerable adults, their families and carers) indicates that where people are involved in the safeguarding process they are satisfied with the process and that they are treated with respect during the investigations. This is an ongoing process.
- Evidence from the North Yorkshire County Council Citizens' Panel (Summer 2011) indicates that community awareness of safeguarding is positive with over two-thirds of respondents stating that if they suspected or were worried about abuse of a vulnerable person they would be able to contact both NYCC and/or 'the police'.

#### **4. Priorities for 2012/13**

##### **4.1 Priorities for 2012/3 include:**

- Ensuring that the governance arrangements of the Board respond to the NHS changes and that effective working relationships are established with new health partners. This includes receiving assurances from the Clinical Commissioning Groups about mitigating identified risks.
- Improving the way we understand and respond to quality and performance issues with an increased emphasis on outcomes
- Acting on the findings of the local Serious Case Review and Winterbourne View reports by promoting practice development and learning and publishing action plans in the Annual Report.
- A safeguarding conference for staff in November to promote the importance of dignity and wellbeing in safeguarding, with workshops on the multi agency support available for vulnerable adults (including community safety/safer neighbourhoods, Trading Standards, food, nutrition and dignity, telecare, dementia and dignity).
- Launching the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Awareness Campaign, including posters, leaflets and a guide to safeguarding. Results from the North Yorkshire County Council Citizens' Panel will be used to help target this campaign.
- Ensuring that connections and links are in place to maximise the multi-agency impact of safeguarding, including strengthening the accountability and integration arrangements at a countywide level through the Health and Wellbeing Board and at a local level through the Local Safeguarding Adults Groups.

#### **4 Recommendations**

- 4.1 Note the progress and priorities of the Safeguarding Adults Board.
- 4.2. Support the identified priority to ensure that effective working relationships are established with new health partners and that risks are addressed.
- 4.2 Support the identified priority to ensure that connections and links are in place to maximise the multi-agency impact of safeguarding.

Annual Report 2010/11

<http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=11377&p=0>

<http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=15825&p=0>

#### **References**

<sup>1</sup> Government policy statement on Adult Safeguarding (May 2011)

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod\\_consum\\_dh/groups/dh\\_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh\\_126770.pdf](http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_126770.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Draft Care and Support Bill – Draft Bill/Consultation

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/files/2012/07/Care-and-Support-Bill-Factsheet-6-Protecting-adults-from-abuse-and-neglect.pdf>

Sally Anderson, Safeguarding Adults Policy Officer on behalf of the Chair of the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board (21 August 2012)